



2025 Applied Research Grant Companion

The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals® (ASPCA®) aims to advance the development and dissemination of evidence-based behavior interventions and protocols in shelters to prevent the euthanasia of adoptable dogs and cats, and to support methodological studies that are foundational to raising the rigor, interpretability, and impact of future applied shelter behavior research projects. The ASPCA recognizes that promoting the growth of high-quality research will enhance animal welfare by advancing the assessments and interventions used by key professional audiences and by improving the reliability of research findings in this area. To this end, the ASPCA invites grant applications for our 2025 ASPCA Applied Behavior Research program. This program seeks to support research that advances knowledge in preventing and responding to behavior problems in shelter populations.

The total funding amount available for this opportunity is \$120,000.

Eligible Projects

The Applied Behavior Research program solicits research proposals that will inform shelter behavior protocols. Projects may be retrospective, records-based assessments of interventions and outcomes, or prospective studies evaluating the efficacy of behavioral intervention(s). Of particular interest is research that addresses behavior concerns in shelter populations that commonly lead to euthanasia. Such concerns include, but are not limited to:

- Excessive arousal
- Reactivity and/or kennel stress
- Behavioral deterioration
- Quality of Life concerns

Furthermore, methodological studies that seek to determine how best to quantify behavior to answer questions related to the above topic areas are welcome (e.g., titration analyses of behavioral observations, validation of animal-based welfare metrics, etc.).

Please note that intervention-based studies require appropriate controls to allow for meaningful interpretation of study results. Uncontrolled studies will not be funded.

For project-related inquiries, please contact bst.research@aspca.org